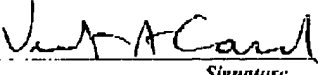
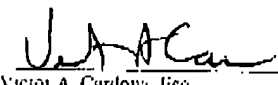


VIA FACSIMILE: 1-703-872-9306

NO. OF PAGES: 13 (including transmittal letter)

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Small Entity)					Docket No. 0545.024	
Applicant(s): John E. Rode						
Application No. 10/054,253	Filing Date 01/23/2002	Examiner Xuan Lan T. Nguyen	Customer No. 23405	Group Art Unit 3683	Confirmation No. 3708	
Invention: ADJUSTABLE DISC SPRING SYSTEMS AND METHODS						
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:						
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.						
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27						
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.						
CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE	
TOTAL CLAIMS	32	32	0	x \$9.00	\$0.00	
INDEP. CLAIMS	3	3	0	x \$42.00	\$0.00	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$0.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for amendment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-1935 in the amount of _____ <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-1935 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.						
 Signature			Dated: September 7, 2004			
VICTOR A. CARDONA, ESQ. Attorney for Applicant - Registration No. 44,589 HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C. 5 Columbia Circle Albany, New York 12203 Phone: 518-452-5600 Fax: 518-452-5579						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Certificate of Facsimile Transmission I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile on September 7, 2004 to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, Attn: Examiner Xuan Lan T. Nguyen, Group Art Unit 3683, at Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306.  Victor A. Cardona, Esq. Registration No. 44,589 Attorney for Applicants </div>						

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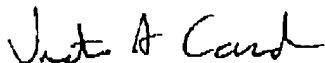
*Response Under 37 CFR § 1.116 * -- Expedited Procedure -- Examining Group 3683
Serial Number: 10/054,253
Docket No. 0545.024*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: John E. Rode**Confirmation No.:** 3708**Serial No.:** 10/054,253**Group Art Unit:** 3683**Filed:** 01/22/2002**Examiner:** Xuan Lan T. Nguyen**Title:** ADJUSTABLE DISC SPRING SYSTEMS AND METHODS**Certificate of Facsimile Transmission**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile on **September 7, 2004** to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, Attn: Examiner Xuan Lan T. Nguyen, Group Art Unit 3683, at Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306.



Victor A. Cardona, Esq.
Registration No. 44,589
Attorney for Applicants

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

FAX NO.: 1-703-872-9306
No. of Pages: 13
(Including transmittal letter)

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed on July 7, 2004, in connection with the above-identified U.S. patent application. The three-month period for response expires on October 7, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.